

**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 10, 2009**

Mason County Auditor's Office  
411 N 5<sup>th</sup> St, Shelton, WA 98584

TO: KMAS, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL

RE: Belfair Water District Election

CONTACT: Karen Herr, Mason County Auditor (360) 427-9670 ext. 468  
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The Mason County Auditor's Office announces changes to the August 18, 2009 election for the Belfair Water District. Based on a citizen inquiry, we initiated a complete review of the legal boundaries of the District and discovered inconsistencies in the data sources used to outline the water district. These inconsistencies include:

- Maps of the District provided by the Washington State Department of Revenue, displayed incorrect boundary lines of the original District formation.
- Two previous annexations, from 1966 and 1969, and two others in 2001 and 2004 were never processed by the Department of Revenue and subsequently never identified on their levy code maps, which we have historically used to identify the water district's boundaries.
- Incomplete legal descriptions and maps provided by the Belfair Water District.

Honesty and integrity in the election process has always been, and continues to be, our top priority. Despite the fact the election is next week, the Auditor's office is determined to ensure all who are eligible to vote are given the opportunity, all valid votes cast are counted, and the final certified election results are an honest and true reflection of the will of the voters. To ensure this we have:

- In cooperation with the County Assessor's Office, prepared a new map of the water district boundaries displaying the boundaries of the water district based on the legal descriptions on file and recently discovered annexation activity.
- Identified the eligible voters who had not previously received a ballot and sent them a ballot on Monday August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- Identified any ineligible voters who received a ballot and flagged their registration to ensure their ballot is not counted.

There is no provision in law that allows the Auditor's office to change or delay Election Day. The ballots sent out on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 must still be returned or postmarked by 8:00 pm Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Election Day, to be counted. There are ballot drop boxes available 24 hours a day at the North Mason Chamber of Commerce and at our office at 411 No. 5<sup>th</sup> Street Shelton, WA 98584